

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application prior to this Amendment.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sukegawa (U.S. Patent 5,812,814). The Examiner rejects claims 4-5 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sukegawa (U.S. Patent 5,812,814).

The Applicants amend claims 1 and 6.

Claims 1-10 remain in the application.

The Applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Claim Rejections Under § 102 and 103

The Examiner alleges Sukegawa discloses all of the elements of claims 1-3 and 6-8. The Examiner further alleges Sukegawa renders obvious claims 4-5 and 9-10. The Applicants disagree for the reasons that follow.

Claim 1 recites *where the first and second devices are in a single integrated circuit*. That is, the semiconductor memory device recited is a single monolithic integrated circuit that includes a first and second devices or cells that generate corresponding ready/busy signals. Claim 6 recites a similar limitation. Sukegawa, on the other hand, discloses a system 100 that includes distinct and separate EEPROM chips 101-106. The EEPROM chips 101-106 are individual chips and not part of a single integrated circuit as shown in Figures 1a-2 and 3. Even in the embodiment of Figure 9 in which the LSI 300 is a single package, Sukegawa fails to disclose devices that generate corresponding and distinct ready/busy signals as recited in claim 1.

Claim 1 recites *where the first and second ready/busy signals are provided directly to a host from the semiconductor memory device*. Claim 6 recites a similar limitation. This is shown in the present application's Figure 3 and 5 and explained in the specification beginning at page 3. No such limitation is disclosed in Sukegawa. Sukegawa discloses EEPROM chips 101-106 that communicate with a host 1 through a host interface 120 and a controller unit 130 (Figure 1a-1 and 1a-2).

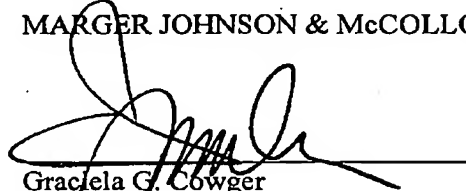
Conclusion

The Applicants request allowance of all claims as amended. The Applicant encourages the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Lisbeth Nichols

AMENDMENT

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